

REMARKS

Upon entry of this response, claims 37-39 and 50-52 will be pending in the present application, with claims 37 and 50 being independent.

I. Allowable Claims

Claims 37-39 were recognized as being allowable in the Office Action mailed on April 23, 2003. Based on a telephone conversation between the undersigned attorney and the Examiner on Thursday, April 29, 2004, claims 37-39 remain allowable.

II. Election Requirement

Applicants were requested under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed specie on the basis of the corresponding figures listed below, and to indicate to the Examiner which of the currently pending claims read on the elected figure:

Species I: FIG. 1;

Species II: FIG. 2;

Species III: FIG. 3;

Species IV: FIG. 4;

Species V: FIG. 5;

Species VI: FIG. 5A;

Species VII: FIG. 5B;

Species VIII: FIG. 5C;

Species IX: FIG. 5D;

Species X: FIG. 6.

Based on a telephone conversation between the undersigned attorney and the Examiner on Thursday, April 29, 2004, cancellation of the non-allowable claims would render the election requirement moot. Therefore, since all the non-allowable claims are cancelled, the election requirement is rendered moot.

III. New Claims

Based on a telephone conversation between the undersigned attorney and the Examiner on Thursday, April 29, 2004, the newly added claims 50-52 would also be allowable.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, the election requirement is rendered moot and claims 37-39 and 50-52 are allowable. Should the Examiner have any comments or suggestions that would place the subject patent application in better condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

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